

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60

RESOLUTION CHAPTER 45

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 60—Relative to the Western Star Lodge No. 2.

[Filed with Secretary of State May 11, 1998.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SCR 60, Johannessen. Western Star Lodge No. 2.

This measure would request the Department of Transportation to grant to the Western Star Lodge No. 2 an encroachment permit authorizing a historical plaque dedicated to the Western Star Lodge No. 2 to be placed within the right-of-way of State Highway Route 299 in the Town of Shasta, Shasta County.

WHEREAS, The Western Star Lodge No. 2 is celebrating its 150th Anniversary, and it is appropriate at this time to highlight its many achievements and to underscore the positive impact that it has made in the Shasta community; and

WHEREAS, The Western Star Lodge No. 2 is the oldest chartered lodge in the State of California; and

WHEREAS, The precursor to Western Star Lodge No. 2, Western Stars Lodge No. 98, was chartered on May 10, 1848, when California was a territory of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Western Stars Lodge No. 98 obtained its charter through the efforts of Peter Lassen and Saschel Woods and was first established in Benton City, Territory of California; and

WHEREAS, On April 17, 1850, the Master Masons of five lodges in California met to form "The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of California"; and

WHEREAS, At the first proceedings of the Grand Lodge of California, Western Stars Lodge No. 98 was erroneously assigned No. 2, despite the fact that it was the first lodge to meet and organize in California; and

WHEREAS, On May 9, 1851, Western Star Lodge No. 2 received permission and was moved to Shasta City in the newly formed Shasta County, one of the original 27 counties in the new State of California; and

WHEREAS, Fire destroyed the business district of Shasta City on June 14, 1853, including the building in which the lodge met; and

WHEREAS, During the next year and a half the lodge met in the home of Benjamin Shurtleff on a hill overlooking the town; and

WHEREAS, On December 27, 1854, Saint John's Day, the lodge moved in grand procession to its current location, a fireproof brick building on Main Street; and

WHEREAS, Since that time, the Western Star Lodge No. 2 has continuously occupied the building at 15344 Main Street in the Town of Shasta; and

WHEREAS, The lodge has also established a lodge archives and an archives vault on the premises to store, preserve, and display its various relics, documents, antiques, and articles of Masonic historic value; and

WHEREAS, Western Star Lodge No. 2 proudly continues to meet in the manner and character of Masons to initiate, pass, and raise all good men and true who may apply for the purpose and whom they may find worthy; and

WHEREAS, The contributions that the Western Star Lodge No. 2 has made to the local area are invaluable, and reflect an organization devoted to the highest ideals of fraternal and community service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly thereof concurring, That the Department of Transportation is requested to grant to the Western Star Lodge No. 2, without charge, an encroachment permit that will authorize an appropriate historical plaque dedicated to the Western Star Lodge No. 2 to be placed within the right-of-way of State Highway Route 299 in the Town of Shasta, Shasta County; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Director of Transportation, the Director of Parks and Recreation, and the Western Star Lodge No. 2.

